



NRCS Missouri Farm Bill Program Summary Fiscal Year 2008*

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

The CSP Sign-up was held April 18 - May 30 in the Lower Missouri-Crooked Watershed, located in portions of Caldwell, Carroll, Clay, Chariton, Clinton, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Ray and Saline counties in Missouri. It is also in portions of Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.

- Total number of eligible applications: 64
- Total number of contracts: 64, obligating \$248,352

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2,401 applications received, requesting \$31,839,837
- 1,742 contracts written totaling \$24,817,591 (to date)
- 99 contracts addressing animal waste
- 265 contracts addressing forestry practices

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- 126 applications received, requesting \$1,521,775
- 116 contracts written for \$1,459,709

Wetland Reserves Program (WRP)

- 16 offers accepted totaling more than \$4 million
- These offers cover nearly 1,700 acres

For more information about programs:
<http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

**Final summaries for FY2008 will be completed after
October 5, 2008 and posted to our website at:
http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/stc/frmbill_summary.html*

Proposed FY09 EQIP Sign-up

EQIP applications can be submitted year round. All FY09 applications submitted from Monday, July 21st through close of business Friday, September 19, 2008, will be considered for the next available funding for 2009. The following types of EQIP applications will be considered for funding:

- **Air Quality Applications** - Missouri is offering limited funding for two practices which address air quality resource concerns. To address issues relating to animal manure odor, Missouri is offering FY09 EQIP financial assistance for installation of 'Biofilters' under Conservation Practice Standard (367) Waste Facility Cover. The Biofilter option is intended to reduce particulate matter and other odor-causing organic materials associated with animal manure facilities. In addition, to address pollutants in EPA-designated non-attainment areas, Missouri FY09 EQIP is offering financial assistance for 'Pump Motor Replacement' under Conservation Practice Standard (533) Pumping Plant. The 'Pump Motor replacement' option, which is only available in Franklin, Jefferson, St Charles and St Louis at this time, may be offered state wide if the new Farm Bill EQIP rule allows. Eligible FY09 EQIP Air Quality applications compete for EQIP funds on a statewide basis.
- **Animal Waste Applications** - Missouri will provide financial assistance for certain practices when those practices are, or will be, associated with animal waste facilities and are, or will be, an integral component of the waste management system. Those practices are: Anaerobic Digester (ambient or controlled), Animal Mortality Facility, Closure of Waste Impoundment, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Fence, Grassed Waterway, Heavy Use Protection, Manure Transfer, Nutrient Management, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Pumping Plant, Underground Outlet, Waste Facility Cover, Waste Storage Facility, Waste Treatment Lagoon, Water & Sediment Control Basin, Water Well or Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment. Any EQIP contracts which include any of the above practices will require the development (or updating of an existing CNMP) and use of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan prior to design and installation of the EQIP-financially assisted practice. Eligible FY09 EQIP Animal Waste applications compete for EQIP funds on a statewide basis.
- **Bottomland Applications** - Missouri EQIP will provide EQIP funds to assist eligible producers on cultivated cropland acres located in FEMA-designated 100-year floodplains. Practices eligible under Bottomland Application are: Spoil Spreading, Critical Area Planting, Grade Stabilization Structure, Field Border, Conservation Cover, Nutrient Management or Pest Management only. Eligible FY09 EQIP Bottomland applications compete for EQIP funds on a statewide basis.
- **Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) Applications** - It is anticipated the new Farm Bill EQIP rule will provide nationally targeted funds to address irrigation-related resource concerns. For FY09 EQIP, the following practices will be available for GSWC funds: Irrigation Land Leveling, Irrigation System-Sprinkler, Irrigation System-Surface & Subsurface, Irrigation Water Conveyance, Irrigation Water Management, Pumping Plant or Structure for Water Control only. Eligible FY09 EQIP GSWC applications compete for EQIP funds on a statewide basis.
- **General EQIP Applications** - General applications include evaluation factors that are county specific in addition to national and state evaluation factors. A variety of conservation practices that address soil, water, animal, plant and/or air resource concerns are available for EQIP financial assistance. General EQIP applications compete for funds on a county basis.

FY09 Screening Tool Worksheets

In order to prioritize 2009 EQIP applications, five separate screening tools are available for completion at your local NRCS Field Office. As detailed above, screening tools have targeted conservation practices to address specific resource concerns. NRCS personnel will assist each applicant to complete all applicable FY09 Screening Tool Worksheets, based on all practices for which a producer is requesting FY09 EQIP financial assistance. Screening Tools will be used to establish a High or Medium or Low priority; High priority applications will be considered for funding before Medium or Low priority applications, and Medium priority applications will be considered for funding before Low priority applications. However, priority does not guarantee funding; funding decisions will also be based on an applicable ranking score, with criteria based on the final EQIP rule, as detailed in the new Farm Bill. Once FY2009 EQIP Screening Tool priority is established, Field Office personnel will work with selected applicants in development of the Conservation Plan of Operation to address the applicant's resource concerns, as reflected in the practices requesting FY09 EQIP financial assistance.

DRAFT (7/7/08) Missouri 2009 EQIP Program Policies DRAFT

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Rate 3/	Pmt Unit
365	Anaerobic Digester - Ambient Temperature	\$ 143.76	NRCS AU
366	Anaerobic Digester - Controlled Temperature	\$ 310.89	NRCS AU
316	Animal Mortality Facility 1/		
	Incinerator Existing or Expanding - Low	\$ 3,873.00	Number
	Incinerator Expanding - Medium	\$ 2,979.00	Number
	Incinerator Expanding - High or All Other Operations	\$ 2,085.00	Number
	Static Pile Composter Existing or Expanding - Low	\$ 5.31	cu ft
	Static Pile Composter Expanding - Medium	\$ 4.08	cu ft
	Static Pile Composter Expanding - High or All Other Operations	\$ 2.86	cu ft
314	Brush Management		
	Brush Management - Biological	\$ 9.30	Acre
	Brush Management - Mechanical &/or Chemical (Low)	\$ 12.40	Acre
	Brush Management - Mechanical &/or Chemical (High)	\$ 97.40	Acre
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments		
	Solid Removal	\$ 4.64	cu yd
	Berm Excavation & Site Leveling	\$ 2.67	cu yd
	Concrete Demolition & Disposal	\$ 34.79	ton
100	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan		
	Acre CNMP for Beef Cattle - less than 100 beef cattle	\$ 5,700.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Beef Cattle - 100 to 500 beef cattle	\$ 7,100.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Beef Cattle - 500 or more beef cattle	\$ 9,300.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Dairy Cows - less than 100 dairy cows	\$ 6,800.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Dairy Cows - 100 to 200 dairy cows	\$ 8,500.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Dairy Cows - 200 or more dairy cows	\$ 11,050.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Swine - less than 2000 swine	\$ 6,450.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Swine - 2000 to 3000 swine	\$ 8,050.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Swine - 3000 or more swine	\$ 10,500.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Poultry - 100,000 poultry or less	\$ 5,850.00	Number
	Acre CNMP for Poultry - greater than 100,000 poultry	\$ 7,350.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Beef Cattle - less than 100 beef cattle	\$ 4,250.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Beef Cattle - 100 to 500 beef cattle	\$ 5,300.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Beef Cattle - 500 or more beef cattle	\$ 6,950.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Dairy Cows - less than 100 dairy cows	\$ 5,050.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Dairy Cows - 100 to 200 dairy cows	\$ 6,350.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Dairy Cows - 200 or more dairy cows	\$ 8,250.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Swine - less than 2000 swine	\$ 4,500.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Swine - 2000 to 3000 swine	\$ 5,670.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Swine - 3000 or more swine	\$ 7,350.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Poultry - 100,000 poultry or less	\$ 3,650.00	Number
	Acre Export CNMP for Poultry - greater than 100,000 poultry	\$ 4,810.00	Number
327	Conservation Cover		
	Cool Season Grasses &/or Legumes	\$ 56.30	Acre
	Warm Season Grasses &/or Legumes	\$ 103.50	Acre
	Forbs	\$ 20.22	pound
	Fertilizer - Nitrogen	\$ 0.48	pound
	Fertilizer - Phosphorus	\$ 0.59	pound
	Fertilizer - Potash	\$ 0.39	pound
328	Lime - ENM	\$ 2.12	per 100#
	Conservation Crop Rotation		
	Adding Grass and/or Legume	\$ 68.90	Acre
	Organic Farming (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 66.30	Acre

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Rate 3/	Pmt Unit
340	Cover Crop (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 29.30	Acre
	Critical Area Planting		
	Cool Season Grasses (CSG) With Mulching	\$ 398.50	Acre
342	Warm Season Grasses (WSG) With Mulching	\$ 446.80	Acre
	CSG With Companion Crop or Into Existing Residue	\$ 218.50	Acre
	WSG With Companion Crop or Into Existing Residue	\$ 266.80	Acre
	Diversion		
362	Small - <=2000 cubic yards earthfill &/or <=1400 ft in length	\$ 1.21	Feet
	Large - >2000 cubic yards earthfill &/or >1400 ft in length	\$ 1.04	Feet
554	Drainage Water Management (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 3.70	Acre
	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt (Adoption Period Required)		
647	Disking of perennial vegetation	\$ 31.00	Acre
	Flex Fallow	\$ 111.00	Acre
	Fence		
382	Fence - Single Strand Hi-Tensile	\$ 0.35	Feet
	Fence - Multi Strand Permanent	\$ 0.90	Feet
	Field Border		
386	Any Cool Season Grass or 'Non-Wildlife Friendly' Warm Season Grass	\$ 0.10	Feet
	Wildlife Friendly Warm Season Grasses	\$ 0.23	Feet
	Forest Slash Management		
	Forest Slash Management - Light without Plan	\$ 142.50	Acre
	Forest Slash Management - Light with Plan	\$ 185.30	Acre
384	Forest Slash Management - Medium without Plan	\$ 303.00	Acre
	Forest Slash Management - Medium with Plan	\$ 393.90	Acre
	Forest Slash Management - Heavy without Plan	\$ 419.40	Acre
	Forest Slash Management - Heavy with Plan	\$ 545.30	Acre
	Forest Stand Improvement		
	Forest Stand Improvement - Light without Plan	\$ 43.00	Acre
	Forest Stand Improvement - Light with Plan	\$ 55.00	Acre
666	Forest Stand Improvement - Medium without Plan	\$ 51.00	Acre
	Forest Stand Improvement - Medium with Plan	\$ 66.00	Acre
	Forest Stand Improvement - Heavy without Plan	\$ 66.00	Acre
	Forest Stand Improvement - Heavy with Plan	\$ 86.00	Acre
	Forest Stand Improvement - Environmental Harvest	\$ 20.00	Acre
	Forest Trails and Landings		
655	Average Slope 0 - 15 % without Plan	\$ 442.00	Acre
	Average Slope 0 - 15 % with Plan	\$ 575.00	Acre
	Average Slope >15% without Plan	\$ 731.00	Acre
	Average Slope >15% with Plan	\$ 950.00	Acre
	Grade Stabilization Structure		
410	Earthen Embankment Dam - 4" thru 6" Spillway Pipe	\$ 1.45	cu yds fill
	Earthen Embankment Dam - 8" thru 12" Spillway Pipe	\$ 1.53	cu yds fill
	Earthen Embankment Dam - >12" Spillway Pipe	\$ 1.65	cu yds fill
	Full-Flow Box Inlet Drop Structure- Concrete	\$ 339.36	cu yds
	Full-Flow Chute Structure- Rock or Fabric or Fill	\$ 15.23	tons
	Side Inlet Drain Structure - Pipe	\$ 22.66	ft of pipe

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Rate 3/	Pmt Unit
412	Grassed Waterway	\$ 1,571.80	Acre
	Heavy Use Area Protection		
561	Gravel - light (6 inches gravel with geotextile fabric)	\$ 3.38	sq yd
	Gravel - heavy (12 inches gravel with geotextile fabric)	\$ 6.04	sq yd
	Concrete Pad and Gravel	\$ 13.47	sq yd
464	Irrigation Land Leveling	\$ 99.30	Acre
	Irrigation System - Sprinkler		
442	Center Pivot - Nozzle Retrofit	\$ 1.00	Feet
	Center Pivot - Drops and Nozzle Retrofit	\$ 1.83	Feet
	Center Pivot - Regulator and Drops and Nozzle Retrofit	\$ 2.30	Feet
	Booster Pump/End Gun System	\$ 1,147.00	Number
	Conversion to Center Pivot	\$ 21.14	Feet
	Irrigation System - Surface and Subsurface		
443	10" or less Surge Valves - Furrow Irrigated	\$ 848.00	Number
	12" and greater Surge Valves - Furrow Irrigated	\$ 1,065.00	Number
	Multiple Inlet Irrigation	\$ 5.30	Acre
	Irrigation Water Conveyance		
430-DD	Pipe diameter is 8 inches or less	\$ 3.77	Feet
	Pipe diameter is 10-12 inches	\$ 5.52	Feet
	Pipe diameter is 15 inches or more	\$ 9.02	Feet
449	Irrigation Water Management (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 3.70	Acre
	Manure Transfer		
634	Pipeline	\$ 5.48	linear ft
	Manure Transport	\$ 66.30	acre
	Flush System	\$ 127.10	ft. width
	Nutrient Management (Adoption Period Required)		
590	Basic Option Available for Pasture or Hayland Only	\$ 2.90	Acre
	(A)Manure Application & Management or (B) Nitrification Inhibitor or (C) Controlled-Release N or (D) Urease Inhibitor or (E) Precision Technology Equipment	\$ 8.10	Acre
	(Y)Variable Rate P& K	\$ 12.00	Acre
	(Z)Split Nitrogen Application	\$ 26.20	Acre
	Precision Nitrogen Management	\$ 32.80	Acre
	Pasture and Hayland Planting		
512	Interseeding Legumes	\$ 14.70	Acre
	Cropland to Cool Season Grasses (CSG) or CSG & Legumes	\$ 58.00	Acre
	Cropland to Warm Season Grasses (WSG)	\$ 105.20	Acre
	Cool Season Grass Renovation	\$ 58.00	Acre
	Warm Season Grass Renovation	\$ 105.30	Acre
	Endophyte-infected Fescue Renovation	\$ 95.70	Acre
	Fertilizer - Nitrogen	\$ 0.48	pound
	Fertilizer - Phosphorus	\$ 0.59	pound
	Fertilizer - Potash	\$ 0.39	pound
	Lime - ENM	\$ 2.12	per 100#
	Pest Management		
595	Precision Application (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 8.70	Acre
	Herbaceous Species Control/Suppression	\$ 28.60	Acre

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Rate 3/	Pmt Unit
516	Pipeline		
	Above-ground for seasonal water at point-of-use	\$ 0.32	Feet
	Buried pipeline to convey water to point-of-use	\$ 1.19	Feet
	Buried delivery pipe for gravity flow systems	\$ 2.13	Feet
338	Prescribed Burning		
	Prescribed Burning - Grassland	\$ 16.30	Acre
	Prescribed Burn - Woodland (>30% woody cover & >3" DBH)	\$ 34.80	Acre
409	Prescribed Forestry		
	Prescribed Forestry - by MDC or NRCS	\$ 6.00	Acre
	Prescribed Forestry - by certified forester	\$ 12.00	Acre
528	Prescribed Grazing (Adoption Period Required)		
	New Grazing System	\$ 9.60	Acre
	Stockpiling and Stripgrazing	\$ 48.50	Acre
	Supplemental Feeding Management-Tractor Mount	\$ 488.00	Number
	Supplemental Feeding Management-Truck Mount	\$ 2,925.00	Number
533	Pumping Plant		
	Fuel Engine Pump	\$ 88.11	horsepower
	Chopper or Screw or Sewage Pump	\$ 450.00	horsepower
	Shallow Draw Watering System	\$ 738.00	Number
	Deep Draw Watering System	\$ 1,113.00	Number
	Alternative Energy (Solar or Wind) for Prescribed Grazing	\$ 2,625.00	Number
	Flowmeter & Installation (system >100,000 gal/day)	\$ 700.00	Number
	Pump Motor Replacement	\$ 50.00	horsepower
329	Residue Management, No Till/Strip Till (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 28.10	Acre
643	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats		
	Native Ecotype Grasses &/or Forbs Establishment	\$ 260.00	Acre
	Prairie Cordgrass Restoration	\$ 83.00	Acre
	Giant Canebreak Restoration	\$ 535.00	Acre
	Management (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 86.00	Acre
	Management - Prairie Focus Areas (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 112.00	Acre
646	Shallow Water Development & Management for Wildlife (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 25.00	Acre
572	Spoil Spreading		
	Excavate&Spread - Sediment 2' Deep or less & Top Width < 20'	\$ 0.04	sq ft
	Excavate&Spread - Sediment 2' Deep or less & Top >=20' Wide	\$ 0.05	sq ft
	Excavate&Spread - Sediment >2-4' Deep & Top Width <20'	\$ 0.09	sq ft
	Excavate&Spread - Sediment >2-4' Deep & Top Width >=20'	\$ 0.11	sq ft
	Excavate&Spread - Sediment >4' Deep	\$ 0.15	sq ft
	Spreading Only - Sediment Previously Excavated	\$ 0.49	linear ft
574	Spring Development		
	Horizontal PVC	\$ 4.41	Feet
	Collection Box	\$ 379.00	Number
	Collection Pipe	\$ 425.00	Number
578	Stream Crossing		
	Rock	\$ 2.06	sq ft
	Concrete	\$ 4.44	sq ft

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Rate 3/	Pmt Unit
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection		
	Willow Tree Staking	\$ 2.27	Feet
	Coconut Fiber Log	\$ 3.79	Feet
	Cedar Tree Revetment	\$ 10.44	Feet
	Rock Rip-Rap	\$ 15.96	cu yd
587	Structure for Water Control		
	Weir Box Structure - Pipe Diameter 15" or less	\$ 1,394.00	Number
	Weir Box Structure - Pipe Diameter greater than 15"	\$ 2,675.00	Number
	Stoplog Structure - Pipe Diameter 15" or less	\$ 2,136.00	Number
	Stoplog Structure - Pipe Diameter greater than 15"	\$ 3,805.00	Number
	Flap/Side Gate Structure - Pipe Diameter 15" or less	\$ 1,169.00	Number
	Flap/Side Gate - Pipe Diameter greater than 15"	\$ 2,428.00	Number
600	Terrace		
	Broadbase construction - Closed Outlet	\$ 1.21	Feet
	Broadbase construction - Open Outlet	\$ 0.95	Feet
	Narrowbase or Steep Backslope - Closed Outlet	\$ 1.13	Feet
	Narrowbase or Steep Backslope - Open Outlet	\$ 1.11	Feet
	Topsoiling	\$ 0.40	Feet
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment		
	Bare Root Stock (trees &/or shrubs)	\$ 1.24	number
	Container Stock (trees only)	\$ 13.12	number
	Bare Root Stock (trees &/or shrubs) Weed Mat & Pins	\$ 1.38	number
	Container Stock (trees only) Weed Mat & Pins	\$ 13.26	number
	Tree/Shrub Seeds	\$ 195.90	Acre
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation		
	Tree/Shrub Site Prep - Chemical	\$ 21.30	Acre
	Tree/Shrub Site Prep - Mechanical	\$ 36.60	Acre
	Tree/Shrub Site Prep - Mechanical with Temporary Cover	\$ 65.50	Acre
620	Underground Outlet		
	Pipe Diameter - less than 6" is required	\$ 1.63	Feet
	Pipe Diameter - 6" thru 8" is required	\$ 2.19	Feet
	Pipe Diameter - 10" is required	\$ 3.53	Feet
	Pipe Diameter - greater than 10" is required	\$ 4.64	Feet
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management		
	WHAG Management or Herbaceous Seeding Management (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 7.00	Acre
	Practice Bundle for Quail Habitat (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 23.00	Acre
	Perennial Food Plot	\$ 110.00	Acre
	Woody Cover Control (open)	\$ 168.00	Acre
	Woody Cover Control (closed) or Loess Hill or Edgefeathering	\$ 293.00	Acre
	Downed Tree Structure	\$ 114.00	Each
472	Use Exclusion	\$ 87.50	Acre
630	Vertical Drain	\$ 1,441.00	Number
367	Waste Facility Cover 1/		
	Biofilter Existing or Expanding-Low	\$ 1.33	cu ft
	Biofilter Expanding-Medium	\$ 1.02	cu ft
	Biofilter - High Expansion or All Other Operations	\$ 0.71	cu ft
	Existing or Expanding - Low	\$ 0.83	sq ft
	Expanding - Medium	\$ 0.64	sq ft
	Expanding - High or All Other Operations	\$ 0.45	sq ft

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Rate 3/	Pmt Unit
313	Waste Storage Facility 1/		
	Solids - Existing or Low Expansion (see item 3)	\$ 5.04	sq ft
	Solids - Medium Expansion (see item 3)	\$ 3.87	sq ft
	Solids - High Expansion or All Other Operations (see item 3)	\$ 2.71	sq ft
	Concrete Liquids - Existing or Low Expansion	\$ 1.28	cu ft
	Concrete Liquids - Medium Expansion	\$ 0.99	cu ft
	Concrete Liquids - High Expansion or All Other Ops	\$ 0.69	cu ft
	Glass Lined Liquids - Existing or Low Expansion	\$ 1.18	cu ft
	Glass Lined Liquids - Medium Expansion	\$ 0.91	cu ft
	Glass Lined Liquids - High Expansion or All Other Ops	\$ 0.63	cu ft
	Earthen Basin Liquids - Existing or Low Expansion	\$ 122.72	1000 cu ft
	Earthen Basin Liquids - Medium Expansion	\$ 94.40	1000 cu ft
	Earthen Basin Liquids-High Expansion or All Other Ops	\$ 66.08	1000 cu ft
	Solids Separator/Lid Tank - Existing or Low Expansion	\$ 4.83	cu ft
	Solids Separator/Lid Tank - Medium Expansion	\$ 3.71	cu ft
	Solids Separator/Lid Tank-High Expansion or All Other Ops	\$ 2.60	cu ft
	Beef & Dairy Facility Scrape Alley - Existing or Low Expansion	\$ 3.30	alley sq ft
	Beef & Dairy Facility Scrape Alley - Medium Expansion	\$ 2.54	alley sq ft
	Beef & Dairy Fac Scrape Alley - High Expansion or All Other	\$ 1.78	alley sq ft
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon 1/		
	With Sealant Treatment Existing or Expanding - Low	\$ 257.88	NRCS AU
	With Sealant Treatment Expanding - Medium	\$ 198.37	NRCS AU
	With Sealant Treatment Expanding - High or All Other Ops	\$ 138.86	NRCS AU
	Without Sealant Treatment Existing or Expanding - Low	\$ 147.26	NRCS AU
	Without Sealant Treatment Expanding - Medium	\$ 113.28	NRCS AU
	Without Sealant Treatment Expanding - High or All Other Ops	\$ 79.30	NRCS AU
633	Waste Utilization (Adoption Period Required)	\$ 13.00	100 cu ft
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin		
	When Using UGO	\$ 1.49	cu yds fill
	When Using Principal Spillway Pipe	\$ 1.87	cu yds fill
642	Water Well	\$ 6.80	Feet
614	Watering Facility		
	Portable/Seasonal Watering Tank	\$ 61.00	Number
	Permanent Watering Tank	\$ 633.00	Number
	Watering Facility for Wildlife	\$ 435.00	Number
351	Well Decommissioning		
	Using Off-site Fill Material	\$ 1.85	cu ft
	Using On-site Fill Material	\$ 1.44	cu ft
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment		
	When Temporary Irrigation IS Needed	\$ 1.35	Feet
	Temporary Irrigation NOT Needed	\$ 0.46	Feet

FOOD, CONSERVATION AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

Title II—Conservation

Summary of Major Provisions of the Conference Agreement

Subtitle A—Definitions of Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation

Section 2001—Definitions Relating to Conservation - - The Food Security Act of 1985 is amended to include or modify the definitions of several terms in Title II. The terms “beginning farmer or rancher”, “Indian tribe”, and “socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher” are moved to this section. In addition, the terms “farm,” “integrated pest management,” “person or legal entity,” “livestock,” “nonindustrial private forest land,” and “technical assistance” are defined.

Section 2002—Review of Good Faith Determinations Related to Highly Erodible Land Conservation. - - The Food Security Act of 1985’s good faith exemption for Highly Erodible Land Conservation Compliance is maintained, but it is amended to provide for a second-level review of Highly Erodible Land Conservation Compliance decisions by the Farm Service Agency State Executive Director with the technical concurrence of the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist, or the Farm Service Agency District Director with the technical concurrence of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Area Conservationist. The amendment allows for graduated penalties based on the severity of the compliance violation.

Section 2003— Review of Good Faith Determinations Related to Wetland Conservation. - - The Conference Report maintains the good faith exemption for wetland conservation compliance, but adds a second level review of Wetland Compliance by the Farm Service Agency State Executive Director with the technical concurrence of the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist or the Farm Service Agency District Director with the technical concurrence of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Area Conservationist. The amendment allows for graduated penalties based on the severity of the compliance violation.

Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve Program

FSA - Section 2101 — Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) –

Subtitle C—Wetlands Reserve Program

Section 2201—Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) – – Reauthorizes WRP through 2012, increases overall program acreage cap to 3,041,200 acres and removes the annual acreage cap. Limits enrollment to private or Tribal lands. While maintaining the permanent and 30-year easements and restoration agreements, it establishes a 30-year contract option for Tribes. Prohibits enrollment of land where ownership has changed during the previous 7 years. Specifies cost-assistance for maintenance activities as a duty of the Secretary.

Changes easement compensation to the lowest of the following: fair market value of the land enrolled based on either a Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices appraisal or market survey, geographic cap established by the Secretary, or the landowner offer. These changes are effective on the date of enactment. Allows limits on the timing of easement payments in excess of \$500,000. Sets a payment limit on restoration cost-share agreement payments of \$50,000 annually. Establishes a Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program whereby the Secretary may enter into agreements with States, Tribes, or NGO's for special wetland programs, including a reserved rights pilot program for grazing which reserves those rights in the deed. Provides for enrollment of flooded cropland or grassland used for agricultural production prior to the natural overflow of a closed basin lake or prairie pothole. Requires the Secretary to report on the implications of long-term conservation easements on Department resources. Requires the Secretary to conduct an annual interest survey in the Prairie Pothole Region and make adjustments to the next year's funding allocations based on the survey.

Subtitle D—Conservation Stewardship Program

Section 2301—Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) -- Prohibits new contracts under the 2002 Conservation Security Program after September 30, 2008, and provides funding for current contracts. Establishes the new CSP for fiscal years 2009 through 2017 to assist producers in implementing conservation activities applicable to their operation and rewarding stewardship on working lands. Defines eligible lands as private and Tribal agricultural lands, and forested land that is incidental to an agricultural operation. Specifies that land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Grassland Reserve Program, and lands that have not been cropped for at least 4 out of the past 6 years cannot receive a CSP payment. Eligible producers must initially meet the stewardship threshold for one resource concern and be willing to achieve the threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of their five-year contract. Applicants must account for their stewardship activities covering their entire agricultural operation. Applications will be competitively ranked based on present and proposed conservation activities, the number and extent of resource concerns addressed, and the cost effectiveness of the expected environmental benefits. The Secretary may enroll up to 12,769,000 acres each year from fiscal years 2009 through 2017 and must manage the program to achieve a national average cost that does not exceed \$18 per acre. Acres will be allocated based on eligible acres in a state. CSP payments are to be made early each fiscal year for improvements and activities completed during the previous year. A person or legal entity cannot receive CSP payments exceeding \$200,000 during any five-year period.

Subtitle E—Farmland Protection and Grassland Reserve

Section 2401—Farmland -- Reauthorizes FPP through 2012. Changes program purposes from topsoil protection to protecting agricultural use and related

conservation values by limiting nonagricultural uses. Adds forest land to the list of eligible land. Changes the Secretary's role in the purchase of easements from acquisition of an interest to providing cost-share to eligible entities. Removes any present or future interest in easements from the Secretary. Changes the minimum entity contribution of 25 percent of the easement acquisition price rather than 25 percent of the appraised fair market value. Allows the entity to designate the terms and conditions of their deed and to choose the appraisal methodology, subject to approval by the Secretary. Requires the Secretary to certify eligible entities, and specifies a minimum agreement length of 5 years for certified entities. Noncertified entities shall have agreement lengths of 3-5 years.

Section 2402—Farmland Viability Program - - Reauthorizes the program through 2012.

Section 2403—Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) -- Reauthorizes GRP through 2012. Authorizes the Secretary to enroll an additional 1,220,000 acres in the period fiscal years 2009 through 2012. Limits rental agreement options to 10-, 15-, and 20-years. Allows entities to own, write, and enforce easements with a 50 percent match through a cooperative agreement with the Secretary. Uses an easement valuation requirement similar to Wetland Reserve Program. Establishes an annual \$50,000 payment limitation for rental agreement and restoration agreement payments. Requires a grazing management plan. Includes contingent right language that would limit Federal rights in entity secured easements.

Subtitle F—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Section 2501— Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) -- Reauthorizes EQIP through 2012. EQIP purposes are expanded to include forest management and energy conservation benefits associated with conservation practices. Provides an overall payment limitation of \$300,000 per person or legal entity, unless a project has special environmental significance. For waters conservation or irrigation practices, places a priority on applications that result in a reduction in water use in the operation or where the producer will not use any associated water savings to irrigate new land. Payments are authorized for a broader scope of conservation activities. Allows payments to limited resource, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmers or ranchers that reflect up to 90 percent of the cost or at least 25 percent above the otherwise applicable rate. These same groups of producers can also request an advance payment covering up to 30 percent of the cost of materials to install conservation improvements. Continues the designation that 60 percent of EQIP funding must be targeted to practices that benefit livestock producers. Payments are also authorized for conservation practices that help producers engaged in or transitioning to organic production. Payments for practices with organic production benefits are limited to not more than \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any six-year period. Authorizes payments for conservation practices that address air quality concerns from agricultural

operations using innovative technologies. Funds air quality practices at \$37.5 million per year from fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

Section 2510—Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) -- Authorizes a new activity within EQIP to promote ground and surface water conservation and improve water quality on agricultural lands. The Secretary may enter into contracts directly with producers to carry out agricultural water enhancement activities or enter into partnership agreements with entities to indirectly enter into contracts with producers to carry out agricultural water enhancement activities. Partners are selected competitively, and if selected, dedicated USDA funds are used in their project area to enroll EQIP eligible producers. Projects may be considered in areas experiencing exceptional drought to impound water to capture surface water runoff on agricultural land for new irrigation projects or maintenance of ponds. Funding is provided at: FY 2009 - \$73 million, FY 2010 - \$73 million, FY 2011 - \$74 million, and FY 2012 - \$60 million and every year thereafter. The Secretary may waive AGI limitations.

Subtitle G—Other Conservation Programs of the Food Security Act of 1985
Section 2601—Conservation of Private Grazing Land -- Reauthorizes the program through 2012.

Section 2602—Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) -- Reauthorizes WHIP through 2012. Limits contracts to private agricultural land, non-industrial private forestland, and tribal lands. Increases the percentage of long-term agreements from 15 to 25 percent. Allows a priority for projects that further national, state, or regional habitat goals. Establishes payment limits to a person or legal entity of not more than \$50,000 per year.

Section 2603—Grassroots Source Water Protection Program -- Reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2012. Increases authorization of appropriations from \$5 million annually to \$20 million annually.

Section 2604—Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control -- Reauthorizes the program through 2012. Modifies the language to reflect the goals of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes. Maintains authorization for appropriations levels of \$5,000,000 annually.

Section 2605—Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program -- Creates a new program to provide assistance to producers to minimize the run-off of excess nutrients and sediment loading in order to restore, preserve, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Directs the Secretary to provide special consideration and begin evaluating applications in the Susquehanna, Shenandoah, Potomac and Patuxent River Basins. Includes a "Sense of Congress" that the Department is authorized to

be a member of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. Funding is provided at: FY 2009 - \$23 million, FY 2010 - \$43 million, FY 2011 - \$72 million, and FY 2012 - \$50 million for the Secretary to enter into agreements with producers to help restore, preserve, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. The funds are utilized through existing Farm Bill conservation programs and are available until expended.

Section 2606—Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program - - Establishes a voluntary public access program under which States and Tribes may apply for grants to encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch, and forest land to make that land available for wildlife-dependent recreation. The program does not preempt State or tribal government laws, including liability laws. Provides \$50,000,000 in mandatory funds for this program, to be expended from 2009 through 2012. Includes a 25 percent reduction for the total grant amount to an entity if the opening dates for migratory bird hunting in the State are not consistent for residents and non-residents.

Subtitle H—Funding and Administration of Conservation Programs
Section 2701 — Funding of Conservation Programs under Food Security Act of 1985 - - Funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation are made available for the following programs:

Conservation Reserve Program, in addition

- Cost sharing for tree thinning activities limited to \$100,000,000 over the period from 2009 through 2012.
- Funding to facilitate the transfer of CRP land from retired or retiring owners to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers is limited to \$25,000,000 from 2009 through 2012.

Conservation Security Program, in addition

- Existing Conservation Security Program Contracts: Such sums as necessary to administer contracts signed before September 30, 2008.

Farmland Protection Program specified at

- \$97,000,000 in fiscal year 2008;
- \$121,000,000 in fiscal year 2009;
- \$150,000,000 in fiscal year 2010;
- \$175,000,000 in fiscal year 2011;
- \$200,000,000 in fiscal year 2012.

Grasslands Reserve Program, and

- *Amends existing law to remove the dollar limit.*

Environmental Quality Incentives Program specified at

- \$1,200,000,000 in fiscal year 2008;

- \$1,337,000,000 in fiscal year 2009;
- \$1,450,000,000 in fiscal year 2010;
- \$1,588,000,000 in fiscal year 2011;
- \$1,750,000,000 in fiscal year 2012.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program specified at

- \$85,000,000 per year from 2008 through 2012.

Section 2702—Authority to Accept Contributions to Support Conservation Programs - - Provides the Secretary authority to accept non-federal funds to administer conservation programs under this Title.

Section 2703—Regional Equity and Flexibility - - Amends Regional Equity to increase the funding floor from \$12 million to \$15 million, considering respective demand in each program in each state. Requires a review and update of program allocation formulas by January 1, 2012.

Section 2704—Assistance to Certain Farmers and Ranchers to Improve Their Access to Conservation Programs - - Provides for a funding set-aside in EQIP and an acreage set-aside in CSP for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. The Secretary is directed to set-aside 5 percent of the funds or acres in the designated programs for beginning farmers or ranchers and 5 percent of the funds or acres in the designated programs for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. The Secretary is authorized to set a date at which time those funds or acres not obligated during a fiscal year would be returned to the general EQIP and CSP programs.

Section 2705—Report Regarding Enrollment and Assistance Under Conservation Programs - - Requires a report detailing payments made under WRP, FRPP, and GRP that exceed \$250,000 and payments made under EQIP utilizing the Secretary's waiver authority to exceed the \$300,000 contract cap.

Section 2706—Delivery of Conservation Technical Assistance - - This section authorizes the Secretary to provide technical assistance under this title to an eligible participant directly; through an agreement with a third-party provider; or at the option of the eligible participant, through a payment to the eligible participant for an approved third party provider. The section adds guidance on the purpose of technical assistance, provides authority for contracting with third party providers for technical assistance, and defines entities eligible to receive technical assistance under this title. Where financial assistance is not required, the Secretary may enter into technical services contracts with program participants. The Secretary is authorized to use mandatory funds and multi-year contracts with third party providers, to establish fair and reasonable payment rates, and to ensure a nationally consistent certification process. Funding for technical assistance shall

be made available through each of the conservation programs in Section 1241. In addition, this provision requires that the Secretary review conservation practice standards to ensure that the conservation practices are consistent with local needs. Finally, the Secretary is directed to ensure that adequate technical assistance is made available to producers involved with organic, specialty crop, or precision agriculture production.

Section 2707— Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative -- Creates a Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative program and directs 6 percent of funds and acres from all Conservation Title programs, except CRP, WRP, FRPP, and GRP, be used for targeted conservation activities and areas. Projects will be selected by the Secretary through a competitive process of applications submitted by partners. Projects will be implemented through existing program authorities and procedures. Funds and acres are directed at the State level (90 percent) and nationally (10 percent).

Section 2708— Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs -- Maintains existing language on authorities to provide additional incentives. Maintains limitations on enrollment of cropland in WRP and CRP, but provides additional waiver authority to exclude continuous CRP and CREP from the limit with the concurrence of county government. Requires the Secretary to develop procedures to monitor compliance and measure performance. Provides that the Secretary may encourage pollinator habitat development and practices.

Section 2709—Environmental Services Markets -- Facilitates the participation of farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners in environmental service markets by directing the Secretary to establish science-based technical guidelines to measure environmental services benefits; a registry to collect, record, and maintain the benefits measured; and, a verification process that considers the role of third parties. The Secretary is instructed to consult with Federal and State agencies and nongovernmental interests, such as producers, academia, and financial institutions. The Secretary is directed to focus initially on carbon markets and is expected to fulfill the intent of this section with resources available to the Department.

Section 2710—Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program -- Provides authority for the Secretary to enter agreements with organizations to hire individuals 55 or over to provide assistance in administering conservation related programs for non-clerical activities.

Section 2711—Establishment of State Technical Committees -- Eliminates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a specifically named member and changes the name of Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to reflect its new name. Exempts Local Working Groups from the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Subtitle I Conservation Programs Under Other Laws

Section 2801—Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) -- Adds Hawaii to the list of AMA states. Provides \$15 million in mandatory funding for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Requires a percentage breakout of funding between NRCS (50 percent), AMS (10 percent), and RMA (40 percent) rather than a dollar amount.

Section 2802—Technical Assistance Under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act -- The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act is amended to include as purposes preserving soil, water, and related resources as well as promoting soil and water quality. The terms agricultural commodity and technical assistance are defined. Technical assistance includes technical services and technical infrastructure. Technical services are services provided directly to farmers, ranchers, and other eligible entities, such as conservation planning, technical consultation, and assistance with design and implementation of conservation practices. Technical infrastructure are activities, processes, tools, and agency functions needed to support delivery of technical services, such as technical standards, resource inventories, training, data, technology, monitoring, and effects analyses.

Section 2803—Small Watershed Rehabilitation -- Reauthorizes the program through 2012. Provides \$100 million in mandatory funding to be available until expended.

Section 2804—Amendments to Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 -- Reauthorizes the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 through 2018 and expands existing appraisal requirements to include data on conservation plans, conservation practices planned or implemented, environmental outcomes, economic costs, and related matters. The national conservation program's evaluation of existing conservation programs is amended to emphasize monitoring of specific program components in order to encourage further development and adoption of practices and performance-based standards. The Secretary is directed to complete comprehensive appraisals by December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2015. In addition, the amendments require that the President transmit to Congress, in 2012 and in 2017, a national program of conservation—based on the appraisal—and a statement of policy.

Section 2805—Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) -- Directs the Secretary to designate a coordinator that will provide direct technical assistance to each council. Places an emphasis on the "locally led" process by adding the term in several places in the section. It repeals the program evaluation.

Section 2806—Use of Funds for Salinity Control Activities Upstream of Imperial Dam -- Allows the Secretary of Interior to create a Basin States Program to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out salinity control activities in the Colorado River Basin.

Section 2807—Desert Terminal Lakes -- Transfers \$175 million to the Department of Interior for Desert Terminal Lakes and continues the program. Strikes the water rights purchase or lease prohibition in current law. Permits use of funds to lease water; to purchase land, water appurtenant to the land, and related interests in the Walker River Basin.

Subtitle J—Miscellaneous Conservation Provisions

Section 2901— High Plains Water Study -- Requires that program benefits under this Act will not be denied to eligible individuals solely on the basis of participation in a one-time study of Ogallala aquifer recharge potential in the high plains of Texas.

Section 2902—Naming of National Plant Materials Center at Beltsville, Maryland in honor of Norman A. Berg -- Names the NRCS National Plant Materials Center at Beltsville, Maryland in honor of Norman A. Berg, former Chief of NRCS.

Section 2903—Transition -- Except as provided by amendments in the Title, the Secretary shall continue to carry out any current program or activity, including the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program, using laws applicable to the program as they existed in the program one day prior to enactment.

Section 2904—Regulations - - Requires rules to be completed in 90 days and provides for same regulatory relief as the 2002 Farm Bill.



2008 Farm Bill Renewable Energy Provisions

The following is a brief summary of the authorities found under Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill. The sections referenced are ones contained in the 2002 Farm Bill that are amended by the Section 9001 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Section 9002: Biobased Market Program

Provides provisions for a federal procurement program and a voluntary labeling program for biobased products. The bill provides \$1 million in mandatory Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 funding and \$2 million per year from FY 2009 through 2012. Additionally, the bill authorizes additional funds in the amount of \$2 million per year, from FY 2009 to 2012.

Section 9003: Biorefinery Assistance Program

Provides loan guarantees for the development, construction and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries, and grants to help pay for the development and construction costs of demonstration-scale biorefineries. Provides \$75 million in FY 2009 and \$245 million in FY 2010 for commercial-scale biorefinery loan guarantees. It also authorizes funding of \$150 million per year starting in FY 2009 and continuing through FY 2012 for both demonstration- and commercial-scale biorefineries.

Section 9004: Repowering Assistance

Provides for payments to biorefineries (that were in existence at the time the 2008 Farm Bill was passed) to replace fossil fuels used to produce heat or power to operate the biorefineries with renewable biomass. The bill provides \$35 million for FY 2009 that will remain available until the funds are exhausted. The bill also authorizes additional funding of \$15 million per year, from FY 2009 through 2012.

Section 9005: Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

Provides for payments to be made to eligible agricultural producers to support and ensure an expanding production of advanced biofuels. The bill provides \$55 million in FYs 2009 and 2010, \$85 million in FY 2011, and \$105 million in FY 2012. Additionally, the bill authorizes additional funds in the amount of \$25 million per year, from FY 2009 to 2012.

Section 9006: Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

Provides competitive grants to eligible entities to educate government and private entities that operate vehicle fleets and the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use. The bill provides \$1 million in funds per year, from FY 2008 to 2012.

Section 9007: Rural Energy for America Program

Expands and renames the program formerly called the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program. Under the expansion, hydroelectric source technologies will be added as eligible; energy audits will be included as eligible costs, and; loan limits will be increased. The bill provides \$55 million for FY 2009, \$60 million for FY 2010, and \$70 million for FYs 2011 and 2012. It also authorizes additional funds of \$25 million per year, from FY 2009 through 2012.

Section 9008: Biomass Research and Development Initiative

Provides competitive grants, contracts and financial assistance to eligible entities to carry out research on and development and demonstration of biofuels and biobased products, and the methods, practices and technologies for their production. The bill provides \$20 million in funds in FY 2009; \$28 million in FY 2010; \$30 million in FY 2011 and \$40 million in FY 2012. In addition, there is a funding authorization of \$35 million per year, from FY 2009 through 2012.

Section 9009: Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative

Provides grants for the purpose of enabling eligible rural communities to substantially increase their energy self-sufficiency. The bill authorizes funds of \$5 million per year, beginning in FY 2009 and continuing through FY 2012.

Section 9010: Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

Subsidizes the use of sugar for ethanol production through federal purchases of surplus sugar for sale to ethanol producers. Funds will be provided in sufficient amounts to carry out this program.

Section 9011: Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Provides support to establish and produce crops for conversion to bioenergy in project areas, and to help with collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility. The program will be implemented by the Farm Service Agency with support from other federal and local agencies.

Section 9012: Forest Biomass for Energy

The bill authorizes the Forest Service to conduct a comprehensive research and development program to use forest biomass for energy. The Forest Service, other federal agencies, state and local governments, Indian tribes, land-grant colleges and universities, and private entities are eligible to compete for program funds. Priority research projects include:

- The use of low-value forest biomass for energy from forest health and hazardous fuels reduction treatment.
- The integrated production of energy from forest biomass into biorefineries or other existing manufacturing.
- The development of new transportation fuels from forest biomass.
- The improved growth and yield of trees for renewable energy production.

Section 9013: Community Wood Energy Program

Provides grants to state and local governments to develop community wood energy plans and to acquire or upgrade wood energy systems. The bill authorizes funds in the amount of \$5 million per year from FY 2009 through FY 2012.

For More Information:

On the 2008 Farm Bill renewable energy provisions listed here, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill/, or contact Robin Robinson at Robin.Robinson@wdc.usda.gov or Weldon Freeman at Weldon.Freeman@wdc.usda.gov.

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At a Glance: **Conservation Stewardship Program**

May 2008

Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands in all 50 States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

CSP is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Legislative Changes

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) replaces the Conservation Security Program with the new Conservation Stewardship Program for fiscal years 2009 through 2017.

To be eligible to participate in CSP, applicants must:

- Demonstrate that they are meeting the stewardship threshold for at least one resource concern; and
- Address at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the conservation stewardship contract.

The program will enroll an additional 12,769,000 acres for each fiscal year. Acreage will be allocated based primarily on each State's or Area's proportion of eligible acres to the total number of all eligible acres.

In addition to private agricultural lands, up to 10 percent of the enrolled acreage may be in nonindustrial private forest land.

State Conservationists and Area Directors will rank and select applications based on national, State, and local criteria. Contracts will cover the entire agricultural operation and will be for 5 years.

CSP payments will compensate producers for:

- Installing and adopting additional conservation activities;
- Improving, maintaining, and managing conservation activities in place at the time the contract offer is accepted by the Secretary;
- Adopting resource-conserving crop rotations to achieve beneficial crop rotations;
- Engaging in activities related to on-farm conservation research and demonstration activities, and pilot testing of new technologies or innovative conservation practices.

CSP payments to an individual or legal entity may not exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during any 5-year period.

The 2008 Farm Bill prohibits new contracts under the Conservation Security Program (as authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill) after September 30, 2008, and provides for funding for all current contracts.

More Information

For more information and updates about CSP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>.

At a Glance: **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

May 2008

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Legislative Changes

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) clarifies EQIP purposes to include forest management and energy conservation, as well as practices related to organic production and fuels management.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes increased payments for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in addition to beginning and limited resource producers – up to 90 percent. It further allows these individuals to receive in advance up to 30 percent of the amount needed for purchasing materials or contracting.

Priority will be given to water conservation or irrigation efficiency applications that will reduce water use or where the producer agrees not to use any associated water savings to bring new land under irrigation production.

Assistance to organic production operations will be based on producers agreeing to develop

and carry out organic system plans. Payments for conservation practices related to organic production may not exceed \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any 6-year period.

The overall payment limitation is reduced to \$300,000 per person or legal entity over a 6-year period. The Secretary of Agriculture may raise the limitation to \$450,000 for projects of special environmental significance, including those involving methane digesters.

Applications that improve conservation practices or systems already in place at the time of offer acceptance will be given priority. Offers shall be grouped by similar crop or livestock operations for evaluation purposes.

Funding for each fiscal year is authorized as follows: \$1.2 billion for 2008; \$1.337 billion for 2009; \$1.45 billion for 2010; \$1.588 billion for 2011; and \$1.75 billion for 2012.

More Information

For more information and updates about EQIP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip>.

At a Glance: **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program**

July 2008

Overview

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is a voluntary conservation program under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). AWEP provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to assist them in applying agricultural water enhancement activities that conserve ground and surface water and improve water quality on agricultural lands. NRCS may carry out AWEP by entering into contracts with agricultural producers who apply directly or through partnership agreements with entities that apply on behalf of agricultural producers.

Legislative Changes

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) establishes AWEP and replaces the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program.

AWEP's purposes – to promote ground and surface water conservation and improve water quality – are achieved by having producers implement agricultural water enhancement activities. These include:

- Water quality or water conservation plan development, including resource condition assessment and modeling;
- Water conservation restoration or enhancement projects, including conversion to the production of less water-intensive agricultural commodities or dryland farming;
- Water quality or quantity restoration or enhancement projects;
- Irrigation system improvement or irrigation efficiency enhancement;

- Activities designed to mitigate the effects of drought; and
- Other related activities deemed by the Secretary to help achieve water quality or water conservation benefits on agricultural land.

An agricultural producer may apply directly to NRCS for financial or technical assistance to implement agricultural water enhancement activities. Producers who apply directly to NRCS must be eligible for EQIP and selected applications will be subject to applicable EQIP requirements.

A producer may also apply for AWEP assistance through an entity that submits a proposal on behalf of a group of agricultural producers. An eligible entity may be a Federally-recognized Tribe, State, unit of local government, agricultural or silvicultural association, or other such group of agricultural producers.

An application submitted by an entity is selected competitively and must include the following:

- Description of the geographic area to be covered by the agreement;
- Description of the agricultural water quality or water conservation issues to be covered by the agreement;
- Description of agricultural water enhancement objectives to be achieved through the partnership;
- Description of the partners collaborating to achieve the project objectives, as well as

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the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of each partner; and

- Description of the program resources required for the project.

In evaluating an application, NRCS may give higher priority to proposals that:

- Include a high percentage of agricultural land and producers in an region or area;
- Result in high levels of applied agricultural water quality and water conservation activities;
- Significantly enhance agricultural activity;
- Allow for monitoring and evaluation;
- Assist producers in meeting a regulatory requirement;
- Include the conversion of agricultural land from irrigated farming to dryland farming; and
- Leverage Federal funds with those provided by the potential partner.

Authorized Funding Levels

The 2008 Farm Bill provides \$73 million for fiscal years 2009 and 2010; \$74 million for fiscal year 2011; and \$60 million for fiscal year 2012 and each year thereafter.

More Information

For more information and updates about AWEP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep>.

At a Glance: **Conservation Innovation Grants**

May 2008

Overview

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection in conjunction with agricultural production. Under this competitive grant program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are awarded to non-Federal or Tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, or individuals.

Through CIG, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and the adoption of promising approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

The national component of the CIG competition generally seeks projects that will benefit a large geographic area (watershed, region, multi-State, or nationwide). An Announcement of Program Funding is issued annually for the specific natural resource concerns eligible for these grants. State-level competitions may also be offered.

Selected applicants may receive grants of up to 50 percent of the total project cost and must provide matching non-Federal fund for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which no more than one-half (25 percent of the total

project cost) may come from in-kind contributions.

Up to 10 percent of CIG funds each year may be set aside for applications from beginning, limited resource, or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers; Tribes; or community-based organizations comprised of or representing these entities. Matching funds for grants to any of these individuals or entities may consist of up to 75 percent in-kind contributions.

Legislative Changes

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) expands the CIG objectives to include forest resource management and projects that provide conservation benefits through increased participation by producers of specialty crops, and to emphasize the effective transfer of technologies demonstrated through CIG.

More Information

For more information about CIG and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the USDA Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/>

At a Glance: **Grassland Reserve Program**

May 2008

Overview

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program for landowners and operators to protect, restore, and enhance grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, and certain other lands. The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion.

In the last 5 years, GRP has closed on over 250 easements covering more than 115,000 acres in 38 states.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) jointly administer this program. Funding for GRP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Legislative Changes

- The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) increases the acreage that may be enrolled in the program by 1.2 million acres during the years 2009 through 2012.
- The 2008 Farm Bill provides priority for enrollment of expiring acreage from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), limited to 10 percent of the total acres enrolled in any year. Eligible lands can be enrolled into either a permanent easement (or maximum allowed under State law); or a 10-, 15-, or 20-year rental contract. Restoration agreements, based on a 50 percent cost-share, may be placed on land enrolled under a rental contract or easement.

- The definition of eligible land has also been expanded to include land that contains historical or archeological resources and land that addresses State, regional, or national conservation priorities.
- The Bill requires a grazing management plan for participants.
- Valuation of an easement is required to be at the lowest of either an appraisal or market survey; a rate set by the Secretary of Agriculture; or the landowner's offer.

Easements may now be acquired by eligible entities based on a 50 percent cost-share with the Federal government. Eligible entities are defined as units of State, local or Tribal government or nongovernmental organizations that have a charter describing a commitment to conserving ranchland, agricultural land, or grassland for grazing and conservation purposes.

Enforcement of the easement is the responsibility of the eligible entity; failure to do so will result in Federal enforcement, as mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill.

The 2008 Farm Bill establishes an annual payment limitation of \$50,000 for both rental and restoration agreements.

More Information

For more information and updates about the GRP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp>.

At a Glance: **Healthy Forests Reserve Program**

May 2008

Overview

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is a voluntary program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: 1) promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improve biodiversity; and, 3) enhance carbon sequestration. Program implementation has been delegated by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The HFRP is authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, with a maximum enrollment of 2 million acres from 2004 through 2008. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) reauthorizes the program for fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

“Safe Harbor” provisions of the Endangered Species Act will be made available to landowners enrolled in the HFRP who agree, for a specified period, to restore or improve their land for threatened or endangered species habitat. In exchange, they avoid future regulatory restrictions on the use of that land.

To be eligible, the land must be privately-owned and:

- restore, enhance, or measurably increase the likelihood of recovery of a threatened or endangered species;
- improve biological diversity; or
- increase carbon sequestration.

The HFRP provides financial assistance in the form of easement payments and cost-share for specific conservation actions completed by the landowner.

Land is enrolled through easements and cost-share agreements, and must have a restoration plan.

The cost effectiveness of each agreement or easement and associated restoration plans must maximize the environmental benefits per dollar expended.

Legislative Changes

The 2008 Farm Bill expands enrollment methods to include permanent easements and allows for 30-year contracts rather than easements for Tribes. Not more than 40 percent of program funding shall be used for cost-share agreements, and not more than 60 percent may be used for easements. The Bill provides \$9.75 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012; funds made available for the program shall remain available until expended.

More Information

For more information and updates about the HFRP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/HFRP>.

At a Glance: Wetlands Reserve Program

May 2008

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. Over 1.9 million acres are currently enrolled in WRP.

Wetlands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and limited recreational activities.

The program offers three enrollment options:

1. *Permanent Easement* is a conservation easement in perpetuity. USDA pays 100 percent of the easement value and up to 100 percent of the restoration costs.
2. *30-Year Easement* is an easement that expires after 30 years. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the easement value and up to 75 percent of the restoration costs.

For both permanent and 30-year easements, USDA pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

3. *Restoration Cost-Share Agreement* is an agreement to restore or enhance the wetland functions and values without placing an easement on the enrolled acres. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the restoration costs.

Legislative Changes

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) changes the process for determining the easement value, directing the Secretary of Agriculture to pay the lowest of:

- the fair market value of the land according to the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices or an area-wide market analysis;
- the geographic area rate cap as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture; or
- the landowner's offer.

Other important legislative changes include:

- The total number of acres that can be enrolled in the program is 3,041,200 – an increase of 766,200 additional acres.
- Payments for easements valued at \$500,000 or more will be made in at least five annual payments.
- For restoration cost-share agreements, annual payments may not exceed \$50,000 per year.
- No easement shall be created on land that has changed ownership during the preceding 7 years.
- Eligible acres are limited to private and Tribal lands.

More Information

For more information and updates about WRP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp>

At a Glance: **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**

May 2008

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for private landowners to develop and improve high quality habitat that supports wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance. WHIP agreements generally last from 5 to 10 years.

Legislative Changes

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) extends the authority to the Secretary of Agriculture for carrying out the program during fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Non-agricultural lands, as well as State, county, or local government-owned lands are now ineligible for WHIP.

Land eligible for WHIP includes:

- Private agricultural land,
- Non-industrial private forest land, and
- Tribal land.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes WHIP cost-share payments to be made to landowners to develop other types of wildlife habitat including habitat developed on pivot corners and irregular areas.

The total of WHIP funds available for use in long-term agreements to protect and restore

plant and animal habitat is increased from 15 percent to 25 percent. Such agreements have a term of at least 15 years.

Priority will be given to projects that address issues raised by State, regional, and national conservation initiatives.

WHIP payments made, either directly or indirectly, to a person or legal entity, may not exceed \$50,000 per year.

Funding for WHIP is authorized at \$85,000,000 per fiscal year through 2012.

More Information

For more information and updates about WHIP and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip>.

2008 EQIP Ranking Questions

**National Issues Addressed
Issue Questions Responses**

1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable reductions of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds, groundwater contamination or point source contamination from confined animal feeding operations?

2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable amount of ground or surface water conservation?

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?

4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?

5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?

**State Issues Addressed
Issue Questions Responses**

1. Offered acres are in the watershed of a public drinking water supply reservoir, or in a watershed of a 303d list stream, with at least one EQIP planned practice that addresses the water quality concern in the watershed area identified.

2. Planned EQIP practices) include installing buffers on 50 percent or more of the eligible perennial or intermittent streams, wetlands, sinkholes, or permanent water bodies, and/or limiting or excluding livestock access to streams.

3. Planned EQIP practices) include installing buffers on 75 percent or more of the eligible perennial or intermittent streams, wetlands, sinkholes, or permanent water bodies, and/or limiting or excluding livestock access to streams.

4. EQIP planned practices) address basic habit requirements of bobwhite quail on 50 percent or more of the eligible offered acres.

5. EQIP planned practices) address basic habit requirements of bobwhite quail on 75 percent or more of the eligible offered acres.

6. EQIP planned practices) benefit a federal threatened or endangered species or a state rare species.

7. EQIP planned practices) on offered cropland acres include a conservation practices) that will reduce sheet and/or rill soil erosion from the existing condition, or treated to address air quality (for example, residue management, crop rotation, cover crop, and/or buffer practices) on 25 percent or more of the eligible cropland acres

8. EQIP planned practices) on offered cropland acres include a conservation practices) that will reduce sheet and/or rill soil erosion from the existing condition, or treated to address air quality (for example, residue management, crop rotation, cover crop, and/or buffer practices) on 50 percent or more of the eligible cropland acres.

9. EQIP planned practices) on offered cropland acres include a conservation practices) that will reduce sheet and/or rill soil erosion from the existing condition, or treated to address air quality (for example, residue management, crop rotation, cover crop, and/or buffer practices) on 75 percent or more of the eligible cropland acres.

10. Application includes EQIP planned practices) on currently irrigated cropland that will improve Irrigation Water Management efficiencies on 50 percent or more of the eligible offered cropland acres.

11. Application includes EQIP planned practices) on currently irrigated cropland that will improve Irrigation Water Management efficiencies on 75 percent or more of the eligible offered cropland acres.

12. Planned EQIP cropland practices include Nutrient Management on 50 percent or more of the eligible offered cropland acres.

13. Planned EQIP cropland practices include Nutrient Management on 75 percent or more of the eligible offered cropland acres.

14. Application includes EQIP planned practices) that will improve grazing efficiency through a prescribed grazing system on 25 percent or more of the eligible offered acres.

15. Application includes EQIP planned practices) that will improve grazing efficiency through a prescribed grazing system on 50 percent or more of the eligible offered acres.

16. Application includes EQIP planned practices) that will improve grazing efficiency through a prescribed grazing system on 75 percent or more of the eligible offered acres.

17. Application includes planned forest stand improvement (thinning) on woodland stands needing treatment, development of a conservation plan on forest land, and/or planned treatment of eroding areas on forest land (harvest trails, log landing areas, gullies, etc).

18. Application includes a resource concern subject to Local, County, State, or Federal Regulation.

19. Application is on existing livestock feeding operation and includes planned improvements to an existing animal waste management system, and/or development of a CNMP by a TSP.

20. Application includes an existing animal feeding operation with a current CNMP developed prior to submission of EQIP application.

21. EQIP planned practices on livestock confinement facilities address air quality odor mitigation needs.

22. EQIP planned practices on farmstead headquarters area address energy conservation needs which have a positive impact on mitigating air temperature and air movement.

**2008 WHIP National Priorities Addressed
Issue Questions Responses**

1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the restoration, development or enhancement of declining or important native wildlife habitats, such as brush, grass, forbs, or waterways?
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for at-risk species which can include candidate species and State listed threatened and endangered species, such as habitat for sage grouse?
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species?
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the reduction of invasive species on wildlife habitats, such as trees, brush, or aquatic plant species?
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of declining or important aquatic wildlife species' habitats such as stream habitat improvement, removal of impairments on waterways, etc?

**2008 WHIP State Issues Addressed
Issue Questions Responses**

1. The planned Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG) Community Model index value for the offered acres is 0.60 or higher.
2. The planned Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG) Community Model index value for the offered acres is 0.70 or higher
3. The planned Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG) Community Model index value for the offered acres is 0.80 or higher
4. The planned Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG) Community Model index value for the offered acres is 0.90 or higher
5. Planned practices address basic habitat requirements of bobwhite quail on the offered acres
6. Planned practices address basic habitat requirements of bobwhite quail on 50% or more of the offered acres
7. Planned practices address basic habitat requirements of bobwhite quail on 75% or more of the offered acres
8. Priority habitat type on the offered acres is grassland and the acres are in a Grassland Coalition Area
9. Offered acres are within the buffer area of a federally listed threatened or endangered species and will impact the recovery or protection of the species
10. Offered acres are within the buffer area of a state listed threatened or endangered species and will impact the recovery or protection of the species
11. Offered acres are adjacent to the buffer area of a known site of a federal or state threatened or endangered species or state rare species and will likely provide habitat for the species
12. Planned practices include the establishment, management, restoration, or habitat manipulation of a single native plant species on a minimum of 50% of the offered acres

13. Planned practices include the establishment, management, restoration, or habitat manipulation of wildlife-friendly plant mixes on a minimum of 50% of the offered acres

14. Planned practices include the establishment, management, restoration, or habitat manipulation of a native plant community of three or more plant species on a minimum of 50% of the offered acres

15. Planned practices include the establishment, management, restoration, or habitat manipulation of a native plant community of four or more plant species on a minimum of 50% of the offered acres

16. Planned practices address prairie, glade, savanna/woodland, wetland, riparian or bottomland forest restoration or management on at least 10% of the offered acres.

17. Planned practices address prairie, glade, savanna/woodland, wetland, riparian or bottomland forest restoration or management on at least 50% of the offered acres.